

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

Provided are techniques for static load balancing. For each data path in a network adapter team, a load balancing value is computed. A maximum value of the computed load balancing values is determined. A data path with the maximum value is selected for use in routing data.

Please replace paragraph 3 on page 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0003] Internet Small Computer Systems Interface (iSCSI) is a protocol (IETF RFC 3347, published February 2003; IETF Draft, published January 19, 2003) that defines a technique for transporting SCSI commands/data to and from I/O devices across TCP (“Transmission Control Protocol”) -enabled networks (Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Request for Comments (RFC) 793, published September 1981). As such, iSCSI acts as a bridge between two independently designed protocols that have significantly different tolerances for, and facilities for, detecting and recovering from network congestion and from errors. iSCSI permits the existence of multiple parallel data paths to the same storage target.